

Eclectic Naturopathic Medical Center, LLC

Kathleen M. Riley N.D.

2434 Berlin Turnpike ~ #18 Newington, CT 06111

Tel: 860.665.1254 ~ Fax: 860.665.7135

CT License # 000079

March 13, 2015

Public Health
Committee Members

RE: **Bill HB6798**

Dear Members:

Please enhance Naturopathic Physician's ability to provide efficient healthcare for their patients by adding prescriptive rights to **Bill HB6797**.

I have been practicing as a Naturopathic Physician in Connecticut for 30 years. In my family oriented practice, I treat infants through geriatrics for acute and chronic conditions. For many of my patients I am their primary healthcare provide. There are times when there is need for an antibiotic, thyroid, hypertensive, or diabetic medication, vaccine or other basic prescriptions needed. The healthcare I provide becomes less efficient for the patient's time and money when they need to see an additional provider for these basic needs.

The antiquated Naturopathic Medical Practice Act from 1922 is also hampering the retention of students from the University of Bridgeport, College of Naturopathic Medicine. Different students are preceptoring with me almost daily. Frequently they indicate they will not be setting up a office in Connecticut because the current law does not allow them to utilize their full training and to practice to the level of other states, including nearby New Hampshire, Vermont, and Maine. Having a law that does not encourage students to stay is a waste of Connecticut resources.

The free healthcare provided by the Clinic at the University of Bridgeport College of Naturopathic Medicine would also be more efficient with modernization of our practice act.

Please enhance Connecticut's ability to provide optimal healthcare by adding prescriptive rights to **Bill HB6797**.

Sincerely,

Kathleen M. Riley, ND
